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) Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

Group Art Unit: Not Yet Assigned

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Attorney Docket No: 01-050

) Customer No.: 22927



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Dated: 11/27/2001 By: Michael D. Brinton

Dear Sir:

A M E N D M E N T

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IN THE CLAIMS:

Please **CANCEL** Claims 64-75 without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited herein.

Please **ADD** new Claims 76-83 as follows:

76. (NEW) An apparatus comprising:

a vending machine;

a device in communication with the vending machine,

in which the apparatus is operable to

receive a selection of a first product from a purchaser;

retrieve a substitute product identifier corresponding to a substitute product; and

offer the substitute product to the purchaser.

77. (NEW) The apparatus of claim 76, in which the device is operable to:

receive payment from a purchaser.

78. (NEW) The apparatus of claim 77, in which the device is operable to:

instruct the vending machine that payment has been received.

79. (NEW) The apparatus of claim 76, in which the device is operable to:

receive data via a network.

80. (NEW) The apparatus of claim 80, in which the device is operable to:

display to a purchaser data received via the network.

81. (NEW) The apparatus of claim 76, in which the device is operable to:

receive input from a purchaser.

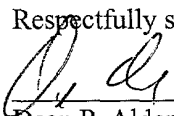
82. (NEW) The apparatus of claim 81, in which the device is operable to:
receive input from a purchaser via a touch screen.
83. (NEW) A method, comprising:
receiving from a purchaser a selection of a first product from a vending machine;
determining a second product; and
offering the second product to the purchaser.

R E M A R K S

If the Examiner has any questions regarding this amendment or the present application, the Examiner is cordially requested to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below or by electronic mail at Alderucci@walkerdigital.com.

November 27, 2001
Date

Respectfully submitted,



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